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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION ON THE FIRST PART OF ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION*

* The present document is a mimeographed version of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of the first part of its thirty-second session. The final report will be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/47/16) and will include the report of the Committee on the second part of the session (A/47/16 (Part II)).

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
ACC	Administrative Committee on Coordination
CPC	Committee for Programme and Coordination
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ITC	International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/GATT)
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) held an organizational meeting (1st meeting) at United Nations Headquarters on 10 April 1992 and the first part of its thirty-second session at United Nations Headquarters from 11 to 22 May. It held 20 meetings (2nd to 21st meetings).

A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the thirty-second session, adopted by the Committee at its 1st meeting, is reproduced in annex I.

3. In adopting the agenda, the Committee, in accordance with the decision taken at its twenty-fourth session, 1/ decided to consider at its thirty-second session the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Reporting on the performance and results of United Nations programmes: monitoring, evaluation and management review components" and comments of the Secretary-General (A/43/124 and Add.1), as mandated by the General Assembly in its decision 46/446 of 20 December 1991.

B. Election of officers

4. At its 1st, 3rd and 4th meetings, on 10 April 1992 and 11 and 12 May 1992, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Mr. Kees W. Spaans (Netherlands)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Yukio Sugano (Japan)
Mr. Jan Woroniecki (Poland)
Mr. David Etuket (Uganda)

Rapporteur: Miss Sally E. Moss (Bahamas)

C. Attendance

5. The following States members of the Committee were represented:

Algeria
Argentina
Bahamas
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burundi
Cameroon
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
France
Germany
Ghana
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Italy
Japan
Morocco
Netherlands
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Poland
Russian Federation
Sri Lanka
Trinidad and Tobago
Uganda
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Uruguay
Zambia

6. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Australia
Austria
Cuba
Finland
Hungary
Ireland
Kenya
Nicaragua
Portugal
Romania
Spain
Sweden
Thailand
Togo
Tunisia
United Republic of Tanzania

7. The following specialized agencies were represented:

International Labour Organisation
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
World Health Organization
International Monetary Fund

8. Also present at the session were the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Development, the Acting Controller and other senior officials of the United Nations Secretariat, including the representatives of the Department of Economic and Social Development, the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the Centre for Human Rights, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). At the

invitation of the Committee, Mr. Siegfried Schumm, Inspector of the Joint Inspection Unit, also participated in its work.

D. Documentation

9. The list of documents before the Committee at its thirty-second session is contained in annex II.

E. Adoption of the report of the Committee

10. At its 20th and 21st meetings, on 22 May 1992, the Committee adopted the draft report on the first part of its thirty-second session (E/AC.51/1992/L.3 and Add.1-16), as orally revised and amended during the discussion.

II. REVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE AND SUGGESTIONS ON THE TIMING AND DURATION OF ITS SESSION

11. At its 17th, 18th and 19th meetings, on 20 and 21 May, the Committee considered the review of the programme of work of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and suggestions on the timing and duration of its sessions.

Discussion

12. The Chairman of the Committee introduced the item. He referred to Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/67, in which the Committee was requested to review its programme of work, taking into account the review of the subsidiary machinery in the economic, social and related fields; to the increased workload of the Committee resulting from the new budgetary process introduced by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213; to General Assembly resolution 46/189 on programme planning, which also requested the Committee to review its programme of work; to resolution 45/264 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and particularly to the "coordination segment" of the annual session of the Economic and Social Council; and to the report of the Committee at its thirty-first session on the question of documentation, which the Committee had noted remained a cause for concern. The Chairman also indicated that two themes - eradication of poverty in developing countries and the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) pandemic - had been selected for the 1992 coordination segment of the Council. As had been pointed out by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Development, CPC was not in a position in the current year to make an input into the coordination segment of the Council.

13. The Chairman of the Committee further stated that the request of the Council was clearly focused on the question of the timing and duration of the sessions of the Committee. A debate on the mandate or composition of the Committee was not requested. It should also be borne in mind that the General Assembly was to review at its forty-eighth session the results of the restructuring of the Economic and Social Council.

14. In order to assist the Committee in its consideration of the item, the Chairman listed a number of concrete issues that he requested the Committee to address. These issues were the following:

(a) Duration of the sessions of the Committee;

(b) Timing of the meetings of the Committee and of the Joint CPC/ACC Meetings;

(c) Question of the timeliness and availability of documentation, which should be seen as a key to the efficient functioning of the Committee;

(d) Support provided by the Secretariat to the Committee, for instance in terms of the planning of documentation;

(e) Timing of the organizational session of the Committee;

(f) Current format of the report of the Committee;

(g) Inter-sessional contacts between the Secretariat and the Committee;

(h) Relationship of CPC with other committees or units, such as the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU);

(i) Questions regarding the Committee's report to the Council, its format and substance.

15. The Chairman of the Committee stressed that the inter-sessional contacts he had suggested were related purely to the question of the timeliness of the documentation. Such contacts would provide an incentive to the Secretariat for submitting documents on time. It was suggested that the bureau of the Committee, and/or representatives of regional groups, might represent the Committee in its contacts with the Secretariat between sessions.

16. The relationship between the agenda and the duration of the session was emphasized. It was pointed out that some items, for instance, those on evaluation and/or coordination, or the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, could be considered every other year. That proposal was supported by a number of delegations. A number of delegations questioned the approach.

17. A number of delegations expressed the view that the length of the Committee's session could be reduced through efficient management of its work programme. Other delegations noted that in fact two or three more days would be useful. The search for consensus required lengthy negotiations. It was also pointed out that the current system of sitting for six weeks in off-budget years and four weeks in budget years was not sacrosanct. A pragmatic approach would be desirable for a variable duration in budget years, medium-term plan adoption years, and medium-term plan revision years.

18. A number of delegations stressed that the timing of the Joint CPC/ACC Meetings was inconvenient in many respects. It was noted that in the past such meetings occurred in July, prior to the summer session of the Economic and Social Council. It was also noted that a joint meeting immediately before or after the CPC session would have a number of advantages. It was further noted that a joint meeting at the beginning of the calendar year would facilitate timely reporting to the Council. A number of delegations held that the joint meetings should be discontinued. Their usefulness was questionable, and they were in any case de facto replaced by the "coordination segment" of the Council.

19. A number of delegations suggested that a review of its role with regard to the preparation and follow-up of the coordination segment be undertaken by the Council; the Council might also wish to assess the role of the Joint CPC/ACC Meetings in the same process. A number of delegations recalled paragraphs 458 and 459 of the report of the Committee on its thirty-first session (A/46/16 2/) and recommended that measures to improve the usefulness of the Joint CPC/ACC Meetings should be assessed in relation to the effectiveness of the coordination segment of the Council. The desirability of

holding the Joint Meetings in the spring should be considered. Any such meetings should be held as closely as possible to CPC sessions.

20. With regard to the timing of the CPC meeting, a number of delegations noted that delaying the thirty-second session to the second week of May had facilitated the provision of most documents at least one or two weeks before the beginning of the session, which is still too late. It was emphasized that the reporting of CPC to the Economic and Social Council was the key for determining the best scheduling of the CPC session. Should the CPC report only to the General Assembly, it was clear that the end of August/beginning of September would be the most appropriate time for the Committee's meeting. A number of delegations stated that the Committee could not in any case meet in April because of the problem of availability of documentation. Other delegations pointed out that the availability of conference-servicing facilities was also an important factor in determining the scheduling of the Committee's meetings. A number of delegations suggested that in budget years the possibility of holding its session in August/September be explored. Other delegations pointed out that that could entail holding a short session in the spring or changing the reporting to the Economic and Social Council.

21. Questions were raised as to the rationale for the current timing of the organizational session of the Committee. One delegation noted that representatives coming from capitals were not in a position to attend such a session when it was organized as long as a month before the substantive session itself. A number of delegations noted that an organizational session taking place a few weeks ahead would be valuable in determining the starting date of the substantive session in relation to the status of documentation and that it was not necessary to have the participation of experts from capitals at that meeting.

22. The Committee remained seriously concerned about the late issuance of documentation which continues to have a negative effect on the work of the Committee.

23. The Secretariat stated that the difficulties in producing documentation six weeks before an intergovernmental meeting were due to several factors, including the necessity of holding consultations between several units; the trade-off, sometimes unavoidable, between timeliness and quality, and the availability of timely information. A document completed by a substantive unit eight or nine weeks before a meeting would sometimes be based on obsolete information. The Secretariat also stated that it was possible, in a number of cases, to produce short documents focused on main aspects of the analysis of a given issue and on conclusions and recommendations, while making available to the Committee supporting information through conference room papers. Further, the Secretariat noted that efforts should continue to be made for the timely production of documents in all official languages.

24. The question of secretariat support to the Committee was mentioned by a number of delegations. A number were of the view that a permanent secretariat, similar to the secretariat servicing the ACABQ, would greatly enhance the quality and timeliness of the services provided to the Committee. Others were not convinced of the usefulness of such a permanent support. The Secretariat recalled the distinction between the technical servicing and the substantive servicing of the Committee. The Secretary of the Committee, while

ensuring the technical servicing, was also responsible for the servicing of other intergovernmental committees. Apart from documents on coordination, now produced by the Department for Economic and Social Development, all other documents were produced by the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance.

25. Concerning the relationships between the Committee and the ACABQ, it was noted that a comparison between the working methods of the two Committees was not very meaningful. The latter had an open-ended agenda, an open calendar of meetings and a full-time secretariat. Each Committee had its own terms of reference. It was also noted that cooperation of the two Committees, within their own sphere of competence, was highly desirable.

26. Apart from the question of the link between reporting to the Council and the timing of the CPC session, the issue of the relevance of the role of CPC vis-à-vis the Council was addressed by a number of delegations. It was noted that the consideration by the Council of the CPC report was largely perfunctory. Even the parts of the proposed programme budget and of the medium-term plan, which were within the purview of the Council, were not the subject of a meaningful consideration. It was also noted that the recent changes in the functioning of the Council could improve this situation. Resolution 45/264 had not yet been fully implemented.

27. A number of delegations pointed out that 1992 was an exceptional year in the sense that a number of events were contributing to an increase in the work of CPC and were determining the timing of submission of documents. Such events were notably the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD VIII), the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the restructuring of the Secretariat. It was also noted that this was a period of transition for the United Nations as a whole and that the Committee would have to respond flexibly, and in keeping with its mandate, to these developments.

Conclusions and recommendations

28. The Committee recognized that the actual length of its session was directly related to its increased workload as well as to the quality and timeliness of the documentation. With regard to the duration of the sessions, the Committee expressed the view that it should continue to work within the current range of time allotted to its session.

29. The Committee concluded that the timing of its sessions should continue to be determined by its dual reporting to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. In principle, the Committee would meet between April and June with a resumed session in an off-budget year.

30. With regard to the organizational session, the Committee concluded that it should take place approximately four to five weeks before the opening of the annual session. This would allow the Committee to assess the status of documentation for the session and take remedial measures as required.

31. The Committee stressed that the timely submission of documents of good quality was the key to the proper fulfilment of its mandate. The Committee also stressed that most documents should be more concise and more directly conducive to the adoption of conclusions and recommendations by the Committee. The Committee further stressed that documents should be available in all official languages sufficiently in advance to be considered by all national authorities concerned in a useful manner. The Committee was of the view that a time schedule for the issuance of documents should be attached as part of the report to the provisional agenda for the following annual session. The usefulness of inter-sessional contacts between the Bureau and the Secretariat with regard to the production and availability of documents was recognized.

32. The Committee concluded that the current format of its report, which comprised a concise account of the discussion on each item and of conclusions and recommendations, should be maintained.

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1990-1991

33. At its 9th and 10th meetings, on 15 May, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1990-1991 (A/47/159 and Add.1).

34. The report was reviewed against the background of the discussion by the Committee of the Joint Inspection Unit report entitled "Reporting on the performance and results of the United Nations programmes: monitoring, evaluation and management review components" (A/43/124) and of the conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee at its thirty-first session on the methodology proposed by the Secretary-General for monitoring and reporting the programme performance of the United Nations (A/46/173).

Discussion

35. A number of delegations stated that the report remained inadequate and expressed doubts about its usefulness. They also stated that it did not provide Member States with an analytical insight of programme implementation. Other delegations commended the clarity of the report and noted an improvement in the information provided on the changes affecting the implementation of the programmes.

36. A number of delegations expressed concern about the large number of terminations and modifications of, and additions to, programmed outputs at the initiative of programme managers and requested assurance that the provision of regulation 5.2 relating to monitoring of programme implementation had been adhered to.

Conclusions and recommendations

37. The Committee recommended that the Secretariat improve its planning of the preparation and publication of CPC documents.

38. The Committee noted that the report (A/47/159 and Add.1) did not as yet reflect the improvements proposed by the Secretary-General in his report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session (A/46/173) as the improvements were mostly predicated on the revised format of the programme budget introduced for the biennium 1992-1993. The Committee noted that they would be reflected in the revised format.

39. The Committee stressed that future reports on programme performance should balance the current quantitative approach with an analysis that would provide more useful information on the implementation of the various activities cited in the programme budget and on the departures from programmed commitments.

40. It was agreed that there was a continued role for the counting of outputs implemented against outputs programmed in the programme budget. However, while such measures could help to identify trends in implementation rates and provide accountability, the limited value of such statistics in providing an overall assessment of the implementation of the programme budget was pointed out. It was also agreed that the effectiveness of monitoring was a function of the quality of the medium-term plan and the programme budget. The effectiveness of monitoring would only be enhanced to the extent that the plan and the programme budget were specific in quantifying outputs and activities planned and financed.

41. The Committee noted that 77 per cent of the programmed outputs were implemented during the 1990-1991 biennium. However, it also noted that global rates of implementation could be misleading when all outputs were treated equally. The Committee was of the view that only through a differentiation between the diverse activities undertaken by the Organization would comparison of rates of implementation for the various activities become meaningful.

42. The rate of implementation for outputs under programme elements designated as being of the highest priority (80 per cent) was noted and the view was expressed that greater efforts should be made to implement all activities designated high priority. The Committee noted the low implementation rate for publications (70 per cent), and reiterated the need to review the publication policies of the Organization, as called for by the General Assembly in resolution 46/185.

43. The Committee agreed that vacancy rates for the programme budget sections reviewed should be presented in a tabular format and their implications on programme performance analysed.

44. The Committee, recalling the recommendations made at its thirty-first session (A/46/16, paras. 394-400), stressed the need for a closer link between programme performance and budget performance reports. The Committee also recalled, in that connection, the recommendation concerning the establishment of a system of accountability and responsibility (A/46/16, para. 400) and General Assembly resolutions 40/185 and 46/189, in which the General Assembly endorsed those recommendations.

B. Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

General considerations

Discussion

45. The Chairman, in his introduction, recalled that the medium-term plan is a basic policy document of the United Nations and that the Committee for Programme and Coordination was requested to thoroughly consider the proposed revisions. While the Committee considered the substance of the revisions, it was also invited to pay attention to the format of the plan. In that connection, he recalled General Assembly resolution 45/253, in which the Assembly called for increased conciseness of the plan. He suggested that the Committee consider revising the format of the plan, making it a more concise document with a strong emphasis on the policies of the Organization. He proposed that the Committee recommend to the General Assembly that the Secretariat should provide to the Committee at its thirty-third session a proposal containing a possible new format of the plan, taking into account the need to be clear about the established mandates and the policy directives.

46. A number of delegations recalled that the medium-term plan was the principal policy directive of the United Nations and that the introduction to the plan was a key integral element of the planning process. They were of the view that consideration of the proposed revisions would have been greatly facilitated if the Secretary-General had submitted a document or a statement containing a comprehensive assessment of the changes that have occurred since the plan was adopted by the General Assembly in 1990 and an overview of the objectives, strategies and priorities of the Organization in the coming years. Such a document or statement would have enabled delegations to place the proposed revisions in a proper perspective.

47. A number of delegations considered that in several programmes the format and presentation of the proposed revisions did not enable them to assess the rationale for the revisions.

Conclusions and recommendations

48. The Committee took note of the statement by the Secretariat that a number of documents would be provided to the Committee at the second part of its thirty-second session and that those documents would provide delegations with an overview of the changes that have taken place recently and the new orientations and priorities of the United Nations.

49. The Committee expressed the hope that during its resumed session the Secretary-General would be in a position to present his views to the Committee on the direction in which he would like the Organization to go and his proposals to Member States, based on an assessment of the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/232.

50. The Committee recommended that the format of the revisions to the medium-term plan to be submitted to the Committee at the second part of its thirty-second session be improved so as to facilitate their consideration by

delegations. In that context, the Committee recommended that appropriate explanations be provided for the proposed changes in respect of each programme.

51. The Committee noted that the proposed revisions to 5 of the 10 programmes submitted to the first part of the session had not been reviewed by the relevant intergovernmental bodies. The Committee reiterated the need to improve the consultative process with Member States and recommended that appropriate measures be devised for that purpose.

52. The Committee agreed that while the conclusions and recommendations of the first part of its thirty-second session reflected the Committee's views on specific programmes, those conclusions and recommendations could be adjusted, if necessary, during the second part of its thirty-second session in the light of the relevant information to be provided.

53. The Committee agreed to continue to consider the issue of the format of the medium-term plan and ways in which it could become a more effective tool for programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation, during the second part of its thirty-second session.

Programme 25. Global social issues and policies

54. At its 12th meeting, on 18 May, the Committee considered proposed revisions to programme 25 (Global social issues and policies) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 25)).

Discussion

55. While the central role of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in carrying out research and analysis was recognized, a number of delegations emphasized the need for better reflection of coordinating mechanisms in the context of the programme.

Conclusions and recommendations

56. The Committee expressed the view that future activities that might fall under programme 25 were likely to be affected by the recommendations that the Economic and Social Council might make to the General Assembly on the convening of a World Social Summit and might require further review.

57. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 25 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) In paragraph 25.1, a reference to General Assembly resolution 46/95 should be added;

(b) In paragraph 25.7, nineteenth line, the words "in particular with other bodies of the United Nations system dealing with the economics of social protection and social welfare" should be inserted after the words "social development activities";

(c) In paragraph 25.8, the words "Department of Technical Cooperation for Development" should be replaced by the words "Department of Economic and Social Development";

(d) In paragraph 25.11, a reference to General Assembly resolution 46/95 should be added;

(e) In paragraph 25.21, sixth line, the word "role" should read "roles"; in the tenth line, the words "as well as types" should be inserted after the word "concepts"; in the twelfth line, the words "the variety of" should be inserted after the words "understanding of";

(f) In paragraph 25.23, sixth line, the words "and its members" should be added after the words "the role of the family".

Programme 26. Integration of social groups

58. At its 12th meeting, on 18 May, the Committee considered revisions to programme 26 (Integration of social groups) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 26)).

Discussion

59. A number of delegations were of the view that before establishing new standards, existing standards should be reviewed and evaluated. Similarly, care should be taken not to promote instruments that might duplicate existing ones. Other delegations considered that promoting international instruments was a normal function of the United Nations.

60. One delegation expressed the view that additional international instruments on the rights of disabled persons were not necessary, as existing instruments conferred rights on all people whether able-bodied or disabled.

Conclusions and recommendations

61. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 26 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) In paragraph 26.16, second line, after the words "strengthened between the" should be inserted the words "the United Nations and";

(b) In paragraph 26.19 (b), the subparagraph should be replaced with "To formulate integrated policies, strategies and programmes based on comprehensive analyses of the impact of social and economic changes on ageing and the impact of the elderly on societies";

(c) In paragraph 26.30, at the end of the last sentence should be added the words "in collaboration with the Department of Public Information".

Programme 27. Advancement of women

62. At its 12th meeting, on 18 May, the Committee considered revisions to programme 27 (Advancement of women) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 27)).

Discussion

63. A number of delegations expressed the view that activities related to research and monitoring exercises should be geared towards the World Conference on Women to be held in 1995. Several other delegations recommended that the revisions reflect the results of the Summit on Economic Advancement of Rural Women.

64. A number of delegations expressed the view that the proposed revisions should reflect follow-up measures on the priority theme, "women in rural areas", as discussed by the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fifth session.

Conclusions and recommendations

65. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 27 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) In paragraph 27.21, third line, the words "women in urban areas" should be replaced by the words "women in all areas";

(b) At the end of paragraph 27.25, the following sentence should be added: "Services will be provided to the Commission for its discussion on the possibilities of the elaboration of an international instrument on violence against women."

Programme 29. Crime prevention and criminal justice

66. At its 12th meeting, on 18 May, the Committee considered revisions to programme 29 (Crime prevention and criminal justice) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 29)).

Discussion

67. A number of delegations expressed the view that the revisions reflected the priorities and programmes recommended by the General Assembly. A number of delegations disagreed.

68. One delegation questioned the need for the creation of a new subprogramme on operational activities, planning and coordination. Other delegations supported the creation of the new subprogramme.

69. A number of delegations recommended the following changes:

(a) In paragraph 29.5, eleventh line, the words "and promoting the fundamental principles of good government" should be deleted;

(b) In paragraph 29.14, the reference to Eighth United Nations Congress resolutions 4 and 5 should be deleted;

(c) In paragraph 29.16 (e), third line, the words "relevant to the programme" should be replaced by the words "when mandated by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice";

(d) In paragraph 29.22 (b), the words "sound public administration and good governance" should be deleted;

(e) In paragraph 29.22 (c), the words "crimes against the cultural patrimony" should be deleted;

(f) In paragraph 29.23, last sentence, the words "Promotion and implementation" should be replaced by the words "Evaluation by the Commission".

Conclusions and recommendations

70. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 29 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) In paragraph 29.4, eleventh line, the words "in close cooperation with other relevant entities, including regional institutes" should be added after the words "at Vienna";

(b) In paragraph 29.5, the following text should be inserted at the end of the paragraph: "In dealing with the transnational criminality issue, it is noted that the lowering of the world crime rate is related to, among other factors, the improvement of the social conditions of the population. The developed countries and the developing countries are experiencing difficult situations in this respect. Nevertheless, the specific problems encountered by the developing countries justify priority being given to dealing with the situation confronting those countries";

(c) In paragraph 29.12, penultimate line, the words "and as determined by" should be inserted after the words "under the guidance of"; and the words "as appropriate" should be added at the end of the paragraph;

(d) In paragraph 29.22 (c), second line, the word "national" should be inserted before the word "services";

(e) In paragraph 29.22 (d), first line, the words "Member States" should be inserted after the words "To help";

(f) In paragraph 29.32, fourth line, the words "by the Commission" should be inserted after the word "identified";

(g) In paragraph 29.38, fifth line, the word "The" should be replaced by the word "Some", and the words "requiring standard-setting" should be deleted; at the end of the paragraph the following sentence should be added: "The Commission shall identify those new areas requiring standard-setting".

Programme 30. Regional cooperation for development in Africa

71. At its 13th and 14th meetings, on 18 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 30 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 30) and Corr.1).

Discussion

72. Several delegations expressed the view that the consideration of the proposed revisions to this programme suffered from the absence of an overall introduction providing an analysis of prevailing and emerging trends guiding the proposed revisions to the plan.

73. A number of delegations expressed the view that the scope of the proposed revisions to the programme was too limited and did not sufficiently reflect the mandates adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session and the conclusions and recommendations of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) at its last session.

74. Several delegations were of the view that substantive reference to Agenda 21 to be considered at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development should have been reflected in the revisions to this programme. Other delegations felt that the drought issue should also have been addressed, in particular under subprogramme 3.

75. A number of delegations considered that the subprogramme structure should have been streamlined and that there were too many subprogrammes designated high priority. A number of delegations expressed concern that the social programmes under ECA were not receiving the requisite priority attention.

76. Some delegations considered that the revision should have highlighted the impact on the programmes of heavy reliance on extrabudgetary resources by the Commission.

77. While a number of delegations suggested that the process of regional economic integration covered in subprogramme 2 should be approached with caution, bearing in mind the benefits to be derived from a liberalization of trade, other delegations expressed the view that there was no contradiction between economic integration and free trade.

78. Some delegations remained to be convinced that the resources devoted to MULPOCs were productively applied. Other delegations did not share that view.

79. The view was expressed that in a number of instances the proposed revisions should be reformulated and corrected to avoid duplication in the text.

80. A number of delegations suggested the following modifications:

(a) In new paragraph 30.45, at the end of the paragraph, the following sentence should be added: "The least developed, land-locked and island developing countries will be given special attention in intercountry technical cooperation projects.";

(b) In old paragraph 30.46, a reference to General Assembly resolutions 46/156 and 46/212 should be added;

(c) Old paragraph 30.60 should be retained;

(d) In new paragraph 30.70, at the beginning of the second sentence, the words "Such strategies will be aimed at examining" should be replaced by the words "Such strategies will be established based upon examination of";

(e) In new paragraph 30.103 (a), the word "multi-country" should be replaced by the word "subregional".

81. A number of delegations suggested that in new paragraph 30.105 the words "and financial" should be added after the word "technical". Other delegations did not share that view.

82. The Committee noted that the social programmes in ECA were not receiving sufficient attention and stressed the need to strengthen those programmes within ECA.

83. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to propose further revisions to programme 30 and to make relevant proposals at its resumed session in the light of the discussions in the Committee and taking into account the outcome of the Conference of Ministers of ECA.

84. The Committee decided to take a decision on this programme at its resumed session.

Programme 31. Regional cooperation for development in Asia and the Pacific

85. At its 14th meeting, on 18 May, the Committee considered revisions to programme 31 (Regional cooperation for development in Asia and the Pacific) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 31)).

Discussion

86. A number of delegations commended the efforts to streamline the structure of programme 31 and expressed appreciation for the thematic approach and the clustering of activities under fewer subprogrammes.

Conclusions and recommendations

87. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 31 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) Wherever the terms "countries in transition" or "transitional economies" are used, they should be replaced by the words "countries that are undergoing the process of transition to a market economy".

(b) In paragraph 31.5, next to the last line, the words "the urgent need to address environmental issues and to achieve sustainable resource use patterns;" should be inserted after the word "investment".

(c) In paragraph 31.6, next to the last line, the word "further" should be replaced by the word "additional".

(d) In paragraph 31.10, first and second lines, the words "particularly the central Asian republics of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics", should be deleted.

(e) In paragraph 31.14, twelfth line, the passage beginning with "Increasing" to the end of the paragraph should be replaced by "Increasing regional interdependence has, in fact created both opportunities and structural problems that need to be addressed in a concerted manner. Reduction of imbalances in trade, adjustments to more open and competitive markets, and efforts to stimulate new patterns of growth are some of the issues that need to be addressed. Moreover several centrally planned economies in the region are making a transition to a market economy; regional cooperation can assist those countries to make the changes in a positive direction."

(f) In paragraph 31.15, the first sentence should be replaced by "At the global level, a certain trend towards protectionism, proliferation of trade alliances and raising of barriers against competitive exporters is discernible in the emerging trade environment." The sentence beginning "The Uruguay Round of multilateral trade ..." should be replaced by "The outcome of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations could have a profound effect on the trade prospects of developing countries of the region by providing both new opportunities and new responsibilities for the conduct of international trade. Uncertainty about the outcome, however, has led many countries to explore alternative arrangements for promoting their trade interests."

(g) In paragraph 31.17 the subparagraph (a) should be replaced by "To sustain the momentum of growth and development in the region while contributing to the alleviation of income disparities within the region;" the subparagraph (b) should be replaced by "To minimize problems and to take advantage of opportunities that growing economic interdependence might provide;" the subparagraph (c) should be replaced by "To manage the smooth transition of the countries that are undergoing the process of transition to a market economy in the region and facilitate their eventual integration in multilateral trade systems and in the regional division of labour;" the subparagraph (j) should be replaced by "Overcome difficulties arising out of growing protectionism and other barriers against competitive exports;".

(h) In paragraph 31.25, sixth line, the words "Economic growth" should be deleted and the sentence begun with the word "Rising ..."

(i) In paragraph 31.28, the second from the last sentence, beginning with the words "The plight of ...", should be replaced by "At the same time, the plight of the rural and urban poor, as well as the lack of access of the general population and the local industry to affordable clean energy accentuates some of the supply-side management problems in the energy sector which remain unresolved."

(j) In paragraph 31.28, last sentence, the words "as well as those relating to transfer of technology and resources" should be inserted after the words "specific problems".

(k) In paragraph 31.29, fifth line, the word "mainly" should be deleted.

(l) In paragraph 31.31, after the second sentence, a new sentence should be inserted: "The activities will also include any follow-up action on decisions and measures adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development."

(m) In paragraph 31.37, third line from the bottom, the words "living and non-living" should be deleted.

(n) In paragraph 31.46, seventh line, the words "the vulnerable sections of society." should be inserted after the words "reforms on" and the rest of the sentence should be deleted.

(o) In paragraph 31.48, after the second sentence a new sentence should be inserted: "In this regard consideration should be given to rendering services and support to activities related to the Asia and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons 1993-2002 in accordance with resolution 48/3 of the Commission." In the eighth line, the words "In that connection" should be deleted, and after the words "Special attention will", the word "also" should be inserted.

(p) In paragraph 31.74, at the end of the first sentence, the words "compounded by the limited capacity of some transit countries" should be inserted after the words "transport problems".

(q) In paragraph 31.75, fourth line, the word "they" should be replaced by "most of these countries".

Programme 32. Regional cooperation for development in Europe

88. At its 15th meeting, on 19 May, the Committee considered the revisions to programme 32 (Regional cooperation for development in Europe) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 32)).

Discussion

89. A number of delegations expressed the view that the proposed revisions did not reflect the extent of the changes in the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region.

90. A number of delegations considered that the social implications of the transition to market economies of some countries should have been emphasized in the revisions.

91. A number of delegations were of the view that the proposed revisions should have highlighted the need to improve cooperation and coordination between ECE and other regional and international organizations.

92. Different views were expressed regarding the proposals on priorities within the programme. While a number of delegations supported those proposals, other delegations were of the view that subprogrammes 5 and 6, as a whole, should also be designated high priority.

93. A number of delegations considered that the designation of specific elements within subprogrammes 4 and 5 as priority areas was not in accordance with the provisions of programme planning regulations and rules.

94. A number of delegations expressed the view that the issue of international migration should be treated on a priority basis. Other delegations questioned whether this was indeed a valid objective to be pursued by the ECE.

Conclusions and recommendations

95. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to programme 32 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) In the new paragraph 32.13 the words "including a study of the potential hazard of atomic radiation on the territory of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States in close cooperation with IAEA and other relevant agencies" should be inserted after the words "possible areas of work".

(b) In the new paragraph 32.14, a reference to the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, should be added at the end of the paragraph.

(c) In the new paragraph 32.15, the titles of subprogrammes 4, 5, 7 and 8 should be changed to the following:

Subprogramme 4: Trade facilitation

Subprogramme 5: Economic analysis

Subprogramme 7: Development of international trade

Subprogramme 8: Industry and technology

The Committee noted that the changes recommended in paragraph 32.15 may require the Secretariat to make adjustments to the relevant programme narratives and report thereon to the second part of its thirty-second session.

(d) In the new paragraph 32.16, the first sentence should be replaced by "Subprogrammes 1 to 5 are designated as priority areas of work".

(e) In the new paragraph 32.21, at the end of the paragraph a new sentence should be added: "The need to develop effective ways of conserving flora, fauna and their habitats transcends the limits of individual countries and will require further cooperation for the maintenance of an acceptable regional environment".

(f) In the new paragraph 32.24, at the beginning of the paragraph, the words "Bearing in mind the decisions which may be taken at UNCED", should be inserted.

(g) In the new paragraph 32.28, at the end of the paragraph the words "within the context of the further liberalization of trade" should be replaced by the words "within the framework of the mandated activities of ECE".

(h) In the new paragraph 32.65, second sentence, before the words "oil substitution" the words "coal and" should be added.

(i) In the new paragraph 32.92, third sentence, the words "including UNEP and Habitat" should be inserted after the words "international organizations".

96. The Committee recommended that existing legislative mandates for the involvement of the Commission in international cooperation to mitigate the effects of the Chernobyl accident should be reflected in the narratives of subprogrammes 1, 6, 8, 9 and 10.

97. In view of the developments in the region, the Committee invited the Commission to keep the programme under review and to report, as appropriate, to the Committee.

Programme 33. Regional cooperation for development in Latin America and the Caribbean

98. At its 15th and 16th meetings, on 19 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 33 (Regional cooperation for development in Latin America and the Caribbean) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 33)).

Discussion

99. A number of delegations considered that, in the light of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 46/145, a new subprogramme on regional and subregional economic integration should have been proposed. One delegation expressed the view that the resources required for the implementation of such a subprogramme should be obtained through redeployment.

100. A number of delegations were of the view that, while regional commissions could undertake activities in the area of international drug control, as referred to in the new paragraph 33.69 in the revisions, the leading role of the United Nations Drug Control Programme in this area should be reinforced.

Conclusions and recommendations

101. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 33 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) New paragraph 33.69: The text of the new paragraph should be replaced by the following: "In the context of the drug trafficking situation in the countries of the region, there is an urgent need to study and elaborate the economic impact caused by the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;"

(b) New paragraph 33.70: To fulfil that need ECLAC shall undertake any appropriate follow-up and complementary work to the recent UNDCP studies and research and analysis of the economic and social impact of drug production, trafficking and consumption and formulations of alternative development programmes to remedy this impact; provision of technical assistance in the formulation of national policies to prevent and reduce the production, trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs and psychotropic substances.

102. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to prepare a new subprogramme on regional and subregional economic integration in Latin America and the Caribbean as called for in General Assembly resolution 46/145 and submit it to the Committee at the second part of its thirty-second session. The objectives of the subprogramme would be to promote full utilization of multilateral and bilateral cooperation mechanisms provided for in the regional and subregional integration and cooperation plans with a view to developing trade and economic development in the region.

103. The Committee invited ECLAC, in line with General Assembly resolution 46/166, to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of its activities related to the promotion of entrepreneurship, in particular through private sector development in interested countries, through small and medium-sized enterprises.

Programme 34. Regional cooperation for development in Western Asia

104. At its 16th meeting, on 19 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 34 (Regional cooperation for development in Western Asia) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 34)).

Discussion

105. One delegation expressed its concern about the ability of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) to implement the wide range of activities described in the programme, in view of the prevailing situation in

the region. Another delegation was of the view that ESCWA should strengthen the coordination of its activities with those of the other regional organizations in the area so as to avoid duplication and ensure rational use of resources.

Conclusions and recommendations

106. The Committee took note of the special circumstances of the work of the Commission.

107. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 34 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

108. The Committee recommended that full revisions to programme 34 be prepared in time for the next revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, to take place in 1994.

Programme 35. Promotion and protection of human rights

109. At its 16th and 17th meetings, on 19 and 20 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 35 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 35)).

Discussion

110. A number of delegations expressed support for the work of the Centre for Human Rights.

111. A number of delegations suggested the deletion from paragraph 35.19 of the reference to the bodies listed therein. Other delegations objected to that proposal.

Conclusions and recommendations

112. The Committee reaffirmed its previous recommendations on the strengthening of the programmes and activities of the Centre.

113. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 35 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) In paragraph 35.15, at the end of new subparagraph (vi), the words "after its entry into force" should be inserted;

(b) In paragraph 35.16, second line of the revision, the word "future" should be added before the word "Committee";

(c) In the first line of old paragraph 35.19, insert the word "special" before the word "procedures"; at the end of paragraph 35.19 add the following:

"Such procedures include the Special Committee to investigate the Israeli practices in the occupied territories, the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Southern Africa, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. They also include currently six thematic rapporteurs, nine country rapporteurs, and nine other mandates dealing with violations conferred directly to the Secretary-General;

(d) In paragraph 35.25, the word "after" should be replaced by the words "with the";

(e) In new paragraph 35.23, the words "the rights of members of minority groups" should be deleted and the words "persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and" should be inserted after the words "regarding the rights of";

(f) In new paragraph 35.31, a reference to General Assembly resolution 46/203 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/51 should be added;

(g) In new paragraph 35.32:

(i) In the fifth line, the words "which ensure the rule of law" should be inserted after the word "infrastructures";

(ii) In the third sentence, the words "The development of appropriate arrangements" should be replaced by the words "Assistance will be given to Member States to develop appropriate arrangements";

(iii) The fourth sentence should be replaced by the following: "Governments should make all efforts to ensure that all provisions contained in human rights instruments are known by those responsible for their implementation as well as by those whose rights these instruments are intended to protect. Assistance will be provided to Governments at their request in that connection";

(h) In new paragraph 35.33, first line, the words "of the rule of law and in particular" should be inserted after the word "strengthening";

(i) In new paragraph 35.35, subparagraph (a), the words "international conventions and other" should be deleted and the following words should be added at the end of the sentence: "and to make additional efforts to promote ratification of international instruments on human rights";

(j) In new paragraph 35.36, the last two sentences of old paragraph 35.35 should be retained;

(k) In old paragraph 35.36, replace the last sentence with:

"In cases where the Centre for Human Rights is called upon to service investigations into allegations of human rights violations as called for by the competent legislative bodies, advisory services and technical assistance can complement these activities.";

(l) In new paragraph 35.37, first sentence, the word "conventions" should be replaced by the word "instruments"; [Last sentence to be further negotiated];

(m) In new paragraph 35.42, a reference to General Assembly resolution 46/203 should be added;

(n) In new paragraph 35.45, the words "genuine elections" should be replaced by the words "participation and democratization, including periodic and genuine elections" and the words "and the international humanitarian order" should be deleted;

(o) In new paragraph 35.46, in the new sentence, the words "the rights of members of minority groups" should be replaced by the words "the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities", and at the end of the third sentence, the words "as well as from the standard-setting projects regarding the rights of indigenous people and from the draft protocol to the Convention against Torture" should be added;

(p) In the global strategy of programme 35, appropriate references to the follow-up measures to be taken as a result of the World Conference on Human Rights, to be held in 1993, should be included.

C. Evaluation

114. At its 3rd and 5th through 8th meetings, on 11 through 14 May 1992, the Committee considered three evaluation reports. At its 6th and 8th meetings, on 13 and 14 May 1992, the Committee considered the oral report given by the representative of the Department of Economic and Social Development as announced in the note by the Secretary-General (E/AC.51/1992/4) of 30 March 1992.

Conclusions and recommendations

115. The Committee confirmed the importance of evaluation for improving the effectiveness of United Nations programmes and for ensuring the efficient use of limited resources, and expressed satisfaction with the quality of the reports on the major programme on social development and humanitarian affairs (E/AC.51/1992/2) and the human rights programme (E/AC.51/1992/3).

116. The Committee recommended that the preparation and distribution of documentation should be further improved through better planning by the Secretariat.

1. Programme evaluation in the United Nations: assessment of evaluation activities and proposals for strengthening the role of evaluation

Discussion

117. A number of delegations considered that the report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/47/116) contained useful assessments of United Nations evaluation activities of the recent past and suggestions for strengthening evaluation in the future. A number of delegations were, however, of the view that some parts of the report should have been more analytical and action-oriented. One delegation stated that the report lacked a "pedagogical approach" and was presented in a somewhat abstract manner. With regard to the conference room papers on new directions for evaluation in professional literature (E/AC.51/1992/CRP.1) and self-evaluations conducted during 1986-1991 (E/AC.51/1992/CRP.2), they were considered useful as reference and welcomed by a number of delegations.

118. Concern was voiced that self-evaluation had not yet been widely accepted by programme managers as a management tool, and that only a limited percentage of subprogrammes had so far been evaluated. A number of delegations suggested that the cause might have been the lack of an evaluation "culture" in the Secretariat and that, to the extent that programme managers did not conduct self-evaluations, Governments were deprived of information on the implementation of programmes.

119. A number of delegations stressed the need for both external and internal evaluations, since they tended to complement each other, but stated that more emphasis should be put on external evaluations, i.e. those independent of the line of authority relating to programme managers but preferably not outside the Organization or the United Nations system.

120. One delegation proposed the establishment of an Office of Inspector-General. One delegation, in supporting that proposal, observed that there was currently no subsidiary intergovernmental machinery reporting to the General Assembly on the budget, and suggested the creation of a public accounts Committee, composed of Member States, to which all relevant expert bodies and the suggested Inspector-General should report.

121. The following topics for in-depth evaluation for 1996 and 1997 were mentioned in the discussion: environment, human rights, international trade, narcotic drugs and statistics.

Conclusions and recommendations

122. The Committee concluded that methodology for self-evaluation needed to be improved and some central standard-setting was now required, and that training in programme evaluation, including questionnaire formulation and sampling techniques, should also be improved. The Committee also concluded that findings from self-evaluation should be reported by programme managers to their respective governing bodies and that reports on the results of self-evaluations should be placed on the agendas of the specialized governing bodies concerned so that they could discuss those results. The mode of

transmission to specialized intergovernmental bodies of in-depth evaluation reports, together with the relevant recommendations of the Committee should be improved.

123. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly, when examining the recommendations contained in paragraphs 52 through 61 of the report, should take into account the following:

(a) Proposals for strengthening evaluation capacity, as suggested in paragraph 59 of the report, would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, taking account of paragraphs 348-350 of the Committee's report on the work of its thirtieth session in 1990 (A/45/16), and the Secretary-General's overall restructuring plan for the Secretariat;

(b) The arrangements for requesting, from the relevant specialized governing bodies comments on evaluation reports, as proposed in paragraph 61 of the report, as well as the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee thereon, would be adopted on a case-by-case basis, as decided by the Committee.

124. The Committee took note of the recommendation contained in paragraph 62 of the report.

125. The Committee postponed the decision on the topics for in-depth evaluation for 1996 and 1997.

2. In-depth evaluation of the major programme on social development and humanitarian affairs

Discussion

126. Some specific observations were made on the methodological recommendations for the in-depth evaluation. It was noted that the proposed methodology narrowly focused on the use of questionnaires as an instrument of data collection; another delegation suggested the inclusion of regional evaluation results in the in-depth report. The exclusion from the in-depth study of activities on crime prevention and criminal justice and the advancement of women was also discussed.

127. A number of delegations noted with concern the lack of progress in the integration of economic and social activities in practice, in spite of support for that integration in principle, as well as the inadequacy of resources devoted to programmes on social development. The Committee also noted the observation in paragraph 45 (a) of the report that "international awareness of the problems and needs of specific groups (the ageing, the disabled, women) has increased, but the increased awareness has not been translated into significant operational activities to support national efforts".

Conclusions and recommendations

128. The Committee noted with appreciation that the progress report on the in-depth evaluation of the major programme on social development and humanitarian affairs (E/AC.51/1992/2) contained preliminary information on the effectiveness of the programme and the Secretariat's recommendations on the scope of the in-depth evaluation, the issues to be addressed and the methods of data collection.

129. The Committee endorsed the methodological recommendations for the in-depth evaluation contained in paragraphs 49 through 55 of the progress report.

3. Triennial review of the human rights programme

Discussion

130. Delegations expressed their satisfaction with the quality and honesty of the report on the triennial review of the human rights programme (E/AC.51/1992/3). A number of delegations stated that the report's presentation of the various, sometimes conflicting viewpoints was the right approach for future triennial reviews, and perhaps for evaluation in general.

131. A number of delegations expressed concern about the problems faced by the Centre on Human Rights due to resource constraints. On the other hand, some delegations pointed out that despite these constraints much could and should be done. A number of delegations expressed their hope that the current temporary freeze in hiring would not affect the recruitment of additional staff needed by the Centre.

132. The importance of establishing a human rights database was recognized, and an offer of financial assistance was made by one delegation.

133. Coordination issues were recognized as very important, particularly the coordination between the Centre and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as well as that with non-governmental organizations, taking into account, as appropriate, the different mandates of respective bodies. A number of delegations stressed the importance of technical assistance provided by the Centre to countries. A number of delegations thought the role of Advisory Services should be more catalytic. Reservations were made by a number of delegations concerning the need for a full-time staff member for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the involvement of non-governmental organizations in drafting new international instruments.

Recommendations

134. The Committee endorsed the recommendations contained in paragraphs 115 to 117 and 119 to 128 of the report on the understanding that United Nations organs perform their functions in accordance with their mandates, as decided by the competent governing bodies; with regard to paragraph 125, the Committee was of the view that, in the drafting of any new international instruments, as may be decided, the involvement of non-governmental organizations would be in conformity with existing practice.

135. The Committee took note of the recommendation contained in paragraph 118.

136. The Committee recommended that, wherever possible, future triennial reviews should follow the presentation used in this report.

4. Progress report on the major programme on science and technology

Discussion

137. A number of delegations recalled General Assembly resolution 46/185 B and reaffirmed their view that the restructuring effected by the Secretary-General should not imply a standstill in activity nor should it affect the implementation of the existing mandates and the accomplishment of tasks in this area.

138. One delegation stated its appreciation of the oral report by the representative of the Department of Economic and Social Development. It considered that the requested report of the Secretary-General would no longer be useful and proposed that the issue be postponed indefinitely. A number of delegations were of the opinion that the oral report could not replace the report requested and that its presentation would have enabled the Secretariat, inter alia, to describe the rationale behind the restructuring of its coordination and support unit for the major programme on science and technology.

139. A number of delegations expressed great concern that full implementation of the General Assembly's resolutions on science and technology for development might be impaired in case of reduction of resources assigned to the major programme on science and technology as a consequence of the restructuring of both legislative organs and the Secretariat.

140. A number of delegations noticed a lack of explicit reference in the oral report to environmental issues in spite of their relevance to the work of the United Nations in science and technology and in particular to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and Agenda 21.

Conclusions and recommendations

141. The Committee expressed regret that the report requested at its thirtieth session, which was to have contained a conclusive analysis and proposals for solving the problems associated with the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, had not been prepared and took note of the assurances provided by the Secretariat with reference to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/185 B.

142. The Committee decided to discuss the issue of science and technology for development in the context of the forthcoming revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and the revised estimates of the 1992-1993 programme budget at its resumed session, in order to determine whether, in the light of the information contained in the revisions to the major programme on science and technology for development and the revised estimates, additional information would be needed for the thirty-third session of the Committee.

IV. COORDINATION QUESTIONS

A. Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination

C. Preparation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001

143. At its 2nd to 5th meetings, on 11 and 12 May, the Committee considered the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1991 (E/1992/11 and Add.1 and 2), the report of the Chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the twenty-sixth series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees (E/1991/143) and the report of the Secretary-General on the preparation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1991-2001 (E/1992/6).

Discussion

144. The Committee had an extensive and wide-ranging discussion of the report of ACC, during which many issues relating to both the content and the format of the report, as well as to the substantive issues addressed in it, were considered.

145. A number of delegations were of the view that the transition in the States of Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States was a challenge to the organizations of the United Nations system and might call for additional resources to fully respond to it. Other delegations stated that it might place a further potential strain on United Nations resources.

146. A number of delegations expressed reservations about the principle of zero real budget growth referred to in the report, noting that zero real growth had never been established as a principle. Other delegations supported the approach of zero real growth. They recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 45/255 concerning the recommendations of the Committee, had requested that a proposal by the Secretary-General predicated that zero real growth in recurrent expenditure should constitute the basis for the preparations of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and that similar decisions had been taken by the governing bodies of other organs. A number of delegations, however, emphasized that most of the specialized agencies or institutions have not taken such a decision.

147. The Committee took note of the statement made by the Secretariat, according to which a temporary suspension of external recruitment was imposed with a view to enabling an orderly implementation of the restructuring process. The Secretariat stated that it hoped that the temporary suspension would be lifted in the near future.

148. A number of delegations supported the convening of a conference on financing for development as proposed by the Secretary-General. Some

delegations noted that the convening of such a conference would be considered by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

149. A number of delegations questioned the apparent lack of commitment on the part of Governments to combat desertification, which was noted in the report.

150. A number of delegations expressed concern about and asked for more precise information relating to the carrying out of the functions that were previously exercised by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation and about new focal points for United Nations responsibilities related to African economic recovery and development and the follow-up of the Chernobyl accident. The Secretariat explained that the responsibilities entrusted to the Office of the Director-General had been transferred to the Department of Economic and Social Development, including the focal point responsibility related to African economic recovery and development. Arrangements for the setting-up of a focal point for the follow-up of the Chernobyl accident were being discussed within the Secretariat.

151. A number of delegations expressed concern about the financial situation of the Development Forum and requested that it be funded from the regular budget. Other delegations questioned its continued usefulness. At the same time, it was noted that satisfaction had been expressed in that respect by the targeted audience through their answers to the readers' survey. Some delegations observed that the declining financial support for Development Forum by the United Nations agencies may be related to the fact that this publication contains views critical of the utility of United Nations development activities.

152. Some delegations were concerned about the possible interruption of the unique activities of the Non-Governmental Liaison Service, owing to a lack of solid funding, at a time when organizations of the United Nations system had already indicated their support for the principle of establishing that Service as a jointly financed activity.

153. A number of delegations expressed satisfaction with the contribution of the Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC with regard to substantive proposals for in-depth discussion during sessions of the Economic and Social Council.

Conclusions and recommendations

The annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

154. The Committee regretted the late issuance of some documentation and stressed that improved planning for the timely issuance of documents by the Secretariat was needed.

155. At a time of profound change in international relations, the Committee saw a greater need for enhanced and improved coordination in the United Nations system, both at headquarters and field levels. The intention of the Secretary-General, as Chairman of ACC, to assign a high priority to

coordination and to work with his colleagues on ACC to develop new approaches for collaboration was welcomed.

156. The intention of ACC to review its role and functioning, including the functioning of its subsidiary machinery, was welcomed. The Committee agreed that the review should take into account all relevant guidance of intergovernmental bodies.

157. The Committee also encouraged ACC to rationalize its practices and procedures so that coordination could be carried out with greater effectiveness and efficiency.

158. The Committee reaffirmed the critical role of the ACC itself and emphasized its linkages with the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies in strengthening system-wide coherence and coordination, particularly in the light of General Assembly resolution 45/264.

159. The Committee recognized that further improvements had been made in the format of the ACC annual overview report for 1991 (E/1992/11 and Add.1 and 2). At the same time there was general agreement that further improvement was urgently needed. The report was considered too descriptive in nature. A more analytical and forward-looking report was necessary in order to facilitate the tasks and responsibilities regarding coordination of the respective organizations which were members of the ACC. The Committee emphasized that the purpose of the report was to serve as an instrument to enable both Member States and ACC to identify and overcome problems in system-wide coordination.

160. The Committee stressed the importance of coordination at the field level and highlighted the role of the United Nations resident coordinator. The Committee looked forward to the outcome of the review of the field presence of the United Nations currently being carried out by the Secretary-General.

161. The Committee took note of the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General, including those in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to coordinate assistance to countries which have invoked Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations. The Committee requested the Administrative Committee on Coordination to incorporate in the next annual overview report relevant information, including that provided by the Secretary-General on measures undertaken and progress achieved by agencies in this regard.

162. The Committee noted the statement made by the Secretariat that the question of coordination between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions would be considered at the 1992 session of the Council.

163. The Committee stressed the need to improve further the inter-agency coordination and to enhance the efficiency and responsiveness of United Nations activities to address the needs of countries that are undergoing the process of transition to a market economy.

164. The Committee underlined the need to implement expeditiously General Assembly resolutions 45/190 and 46/150 on coordination of international cooperation to mitigate the consequences of the disaster at the Chernobyl

nuclear power plant taking account also of the relevant decision of the governing bodies of United Nations organs, organizations and programmes including the Governing Council of UNDP.

165. The Committee noted that the Secretary-General would submit to the Committee at its resumed session a draft system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development, as called for by the General Assembly, taking account also of the Committee's recommendations on the system-wide plan of action on drugs.

166. The Committee stressed that the Secretary-General, in preparing the draft system-wide plan, should be in full conformity with the recommendations of the Committee at its thirtieth and thirty-first sessions, endorsed by the General Assembly, regarding the structure, format and content of the system-wide plan, taking account also of the Committee's recommendations with regard to the presentation and format of the system-wide plan of action on drugs. In this regard, the Committee stressed that the draft system-wide plan should identify problem areas requiring multilateral attention and action. It should include updated analytical and action-oriented proposals with a clear delineation of the responsibilities of each agency, goals to be attained and indications of resources required and available.

Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination

167. The Committee took note of the report of the twenty-sixth series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees (E/1991/143).

168. The Committee reaffirmed the potential of the Joint Meetings as a forum for dialogue between Member States and executive heads and recommended that the Joint Meetings be reviewed against that criterion, and that the documentation should be prepared in consultation with the CPC or its Bureau and issued in due time.

169. The Committee was of the view that the topic for the Joint Meetings should be selected ahead of time so that the dialogue could be of interest for all participants while being well focused and leading to specific conclusions.

170. The Committee, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 45/264, decided to return to the questions of the timing and topic of the twenty-seventh series of the Joint Meetings at its resumed session.

Preparation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001

171. The Committee took note of the report on the preparation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001 (E/1992/6), and the fact that the plan was still in a preparatory process.

172. The Committee proposed that subprogramme 4.2, "Eradication of violence against women in the family and society", should be placed under programme 1, "Elimination of legal and attitudinal forms of discrimination". The Committee also proposed that dangers to women in armed conflict should be reflected in programme 4, "Promotion of peace and conflict resolution".

V. REPORTS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

173. At its 6th and 8th meetings on 13 and 14 May, the Committee considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Reporting on the performance and results of the United Nations programme: monitoring, evaluation and management review components" (A/43/124), and the comments of the Secretary-General (A/43/124/Add.1).

Discussion

174. A number of delegations stressed the need for sufficient resources and training in order to promote adequate self-evaluation.

175. A number of delegations suggested that the first priority should be to improve programme design.

176. While a number of delegations supported recommendation 1 contained in the Joint Inspection Unit report, others expressed reservations regarding the workload involved and the size of the programme performance report it would entail. The latter held that submitting such a report concurrently with the proposed biennial programme budget might also raise some difficulties.

177. With respect to recommendation 2 of the report, a number of delegations were of the view that evaluation functions needed to be strengthened in a cost-effective manner. The possibility of assigning evaluation functions to an inspector-general was proposed by one delegation, while others maintained that the United Nations should rather aim at strengthening current mechanisms, such as JIU and the Board of Auditors.

178. A number of delegations supported recommendation 3 in the JIU report, while others pointed out possible difficulties in undertaking an annual in-depth review in the area of Administration and Conference Services.

179. With respect to recommendation 4, the hope was expressed that the development of an integrated management information system currently under way would contribute to the improvement of the information available for decision-making.

Conclusions and recommendations

180. The Committee expressed its concern that over the years, very little improvement had been achieved in providing the legislative bodies concerned with an analytical report on programme performance. Such an improvement was considered essential for Member States to take informed decisions on programmes of work, including the identification of ineffective activities and reformulation of programmes in the light of emerging priorities.

181. The Committee noted with appreciation the high quality of the report and expressed agreement with its diagnosis of the imperfections in reporting on performance and results achieved under the United Nations work programmes. The Committee expressed dissatisfaction with many aspects of the current

system for reporting performance, as well as with the limited scope of coverage of evaluation and what it perceived to be a lack of responsiveness on the part of programme managers.

182. Recalling the extensive debate over the years on this issue, the Committee concluded that a future report by the Joint Inspection Unit on the subject would not be necessary.

183. There was general agreement in the Committee that the evaluation function needed to be strengthened through a change of culture within the Secretariat, as well as through recourse to independent external evaluation.

184. The Committee expressed the view that a clearer description of the objectives to be attained and the incorporation of performance indicators would contribute to a better formulation of the programme budget and a more effective system of monitoring and evaluation.

185. The need to clarify the different concepts of evaluation, the monitoring of performance and inspection were emphasized. Those three different aspects of reporting complemented one another.

186. It was noted that the quantitative approach of the current system of programme performance reporting, required by the Regulations and Rules governing Programme Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation, was necessary but not nearly sufficient, and that the effectiveness of monitoring was a function of the quality of the medium-term plan and the programme budget. To the extent that those procedures were specific in quantifying outputs and activities planned and financed, the effectiveness of monitoring would be enhanced. The Committee also noted that the inclusion of self-evaluation findings on an experimental basis could constitute the basis for a more comprehensive report.

187. The Committee was informed that those issues would be addressed in the prototype of the new budget to be submitted to the Committee at its resumed session.

188. The Secretariat was invited to draw on the experiences of other organizations of the United Nations system, taking into account the specificity of the United Nations itself.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

189. In pursuance of paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 of 10 May 1979, and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50 of 23 November 1979, the Committee shall submit to the Council and to the Assembly, for their review, the provisional agenda for its thirty-third session, together with the required documentation. In accordance with paragraph 8 of the annex to Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976, the thirty-third session shall be of four weeks' duration.

190. At its 20th meeting, on 22 May, the Committee considered the provisional agenda and the documentation for its thirty-third session on the basis of a note by the Secretariat (E/AC.51/1992/L.4).

191. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to submit to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, for their review, the following provisional agenda for its thirty-third session, subject to those new agenda items or reports which might be approved at the Committee's resumed thirty-second session:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Programme questions.

   (a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995;

   Documentation

   Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 (in fascicle form)

   (b) Review of the procedure for the provision of statements of programme budget implications and for the use and operation of the contingency fund;

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General (A/46/16, para. 411; and General Assembly resolution 46/189, sect. IV, para. 4)

   (c) Evaluation.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on the international protection of and assistance to refugees: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/44/16, para. 318, and A/45/16, part one, para. 363)

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on the international protection of and assistance to refugees: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (A/45/16, part one, para. 363)

Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial review of the major programme on human settlements (A/37/38, para. 362, and A/39/38, para. 364)

Follow-up report of the Secretary-General on the human rights programme

4. Coordination questions.

Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

Documentation

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1992

Report of the Chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees

5. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolution 45/254, para. 17).

6. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth session of the Committee.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-third session.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/39/38), para. 388.

2/ Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 16.

ANNEX I

Agenda for the thirty-second session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Review of the programme of work of the Committee and suggestions on the timing and duration of its sessions.

4. Programme questions:

   (a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1990-1991;

   (b) Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997;

   (c) Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995;

   (d) Methodology for the preparation of the programme budget;

   (e) Evaluation;

   (f) Questions related to the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

5. Coordination questions:

   (a) Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination;

   (b) System-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development;

   (c) Preparation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001.

6. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

7. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

8. Provisional agenda for the thirty-third session of the Committee.

9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-second session.

ANNEX II

List of documents before the Committee at the first part of its thirty-second session

A/47/6	Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997
	General consideration
	Programme 25 Global issues and policies
	Programme 26 Integration of social groups
	Programme 27 Advancement of women
	Programme 29 Crime prevention and criminal justice
	Programme 30 Regional cooperation for development in Africa
	Programme 31 and Corr.1 Regional cooperation for development in Asia and the Pacific
	Programme 32 Regional cooperation for development in Europe
	Programme 33 Regional cooperation for development in Latin America and the Caribbean
	Programme 34 Regional cooperation for development in Western Asiaa
	Programme 35 Promotion and protection of human rights
A/43/124 and Add.1	Note by the Secretary-General on the reporting on the performance and results of United Nations programmes: monitoring, evaluation and management review components
A/46/219	Implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit
A/47/116	Report of the Secretary-General on programme evaluation in the United Nations: assessment of evaluation activities and proposals for strengthening the role of evaluation
A/47/159 and Add.1	Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1990-1991
E/1992/6	Report of the Secretary-General on the preparation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001
E/1992/11 and Add.1 and Add.2	Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1991

E/AC.51/1992/2	Progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the major programme on social development and humanitarian affairs
E/AC.51/1992/3	Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial review of the human rights programme
E/AC.51/1992/4	Note by the Secretary-General on the progress report on the major programme on science and technology for development
E/AC.51/1992/CRP.1	New directions for evaluations in the professional literature
E/AC.51/1992/CRP.2	Self-evaluations conducted during 1986-1991
E/AC.51/1992/INF.1	List of delegations
E/AC.51/1992/L.1	Draft programme of work: note by the Secretariat
E/AC.51/1992/L.2 and Rev.1	Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation for the session
E/AC.51/1992/L.3 and Add.1-16	Draft report of the Committee
E/AC.51/1992/L.4	Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-third session of the Committee

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